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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY LAW

DATE: March 19, 2007

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/895,880

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Agenda for Telephone Interview
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/895,880
Tuesday, March 20, 2007, 1:00 pm Eastern

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1. Discussion of User Objects and their absence in Ellis (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/021827)

Instead of user objects associated with a respective user, Ellis teaches settings/profiles that are location or equipment based. (See, e.g., Figures 11, 13, and 14, as well as the text at [0092], [0093].) These profiles/settings are configurations for individual items of television equipment and are not specific to a user. Although the television equipment may be identified by a user's name (e.g., parent's room or children's room) the profile in Ellis for that particular television equipment is the same regardless of the actual user. For example, if a parent uses the television in the children's room the profile for that television is the same as if the children were using that television. The profiles/settings in this particular example are related to the television in the children's room, not a profile for the children themselves. In other words, the profiles/settings are equipment-specific, not user-specific. Accordingly, these profiles/settings are not user objects as recited in the claims because the profiles/settings are not associated with a respective user of the access devices/client systems.

2. Proposed Claim Amendment

1. A method of controlling access to content in a multimedia communication network system having a plurality of access devices, the method comprising:

receiving configuration information related to a user object from a user via an access device of the plurality of access devices, the configuration information defining multimedia content that can be accessed by instantiating the user object in an access device, wherein each of the user objects defines interaction of a respective user with the system and the user can access the system by logging on to the user object; and

providing the received configuration information from the multimedia communication network system to another access device of the plurality of access devices.

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